

GAMMA ALPHA BIRTHDAY DINNER MEETING May 18, 2016

The dinner/meeting was held at The Courthouse Grille in Plymouth.

Lynne Elsesser called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Jackie led the group in an icebreaker activity using playing cards that provided us with interesting (at times amazing!) information about each other.

Lynne provided the group with highlights about the recent state convention. Five chapter members served as presidors, Jackie and Esther were presenters. Three chapter members worked to raise funds and several members assisted with the Saturday procession. Our sister, Chris Smith, was honored at the Celebration of Life. A Founders Day presentation planned by Jackie and Esther provided information and entertainment. Gamma Alpha was recognized for having a strong representation at the convention.

Lynne announced that the meeting to plan next year's schedule and activities will be on June 27 at 11:00 at her house. All members are strongly encouraged to attend and to bring ideas for speakers, programs and activities. Meetings next year will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in order to accommodate members' other activities, classes, etc.

Judy Morante reported that the recent Service Project activity was a baby shower for teen mothers. Four young mothers and three babies were treated to lunch and gifts provided by Gamma Alpha. Two other young mothers were unable to attend but received gifts as well. Ten chapter members were in attendance to act as hostesses and babysitters. Ten more donated money to provide gifts. The young mothers expressed overwhelming gratitude. Special thanks to Judy for all the work on this activity.

Judy reported that the girls of Beverly House were treated to a rolling skating outing and an opportunity to bowl at the Seedlings fundraiser with the help of Gamma Alpha's generosity.

Donna Colainne presented this year's Grant-in-Aid award to Holly Na#####, a Kindergarten teacher at Roosevelt-McGrath School. Holly is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and EMU.

Lynne announced that this year's Friend of Education Award is given to Mark Dabiero, husband of Sarah Dabiero, for his many donations to our service projects.

Amy presented Sarah Dabiero with this year's Woman of Distinction Award. Sarah told us that her family now has a charity foundation devoted to helping others.

Colleen and Cindy presented Longevity Pins to the following members: Carol Holland, 35 years; Mary Jo Dreffs, 25 years; Carol Palk, Donna Colainne, and Judy Handley, 20 years.

Jackie, Esther and Helen led a ceremonial installation of officers for the upcoming two years. Amy Wright and Colleen Retherford will serve as Co-Presidents. Carole Lower will serve as Vice-president. Mary Jo Dreffs is the incoming Recording Secretary. Cindy Dietz continues as Treasurer. Barb Broadley will serve as Parliamentarian. Amy Wright and Pam Husson will share the responsibilities of correspondence with the newsletter.

Lynne acknowledged the 15 members celebrating birthdays in April, May, June, July and August.

Lynne, Jackie and Colleen led a touching memorial to Chris Smith. We were reminded of her 39 ½ years as a WWCS teacher, a mentor to new teachers, a very active union member and representative. Chris maintained her membership in Gamma Alpha after retiring to Florida. Her white rose was placed in a vase with the roses to commemorate other deceased members from Gamma Alpha.

Led by Jackie, Esther and Helen, several members reprised the amusing Founders Celebration skit they had presented in Kalamazoo at the state convention.

A 50-50 raffle was won by Ev Shuput who received \$68.

With a reminder to submit Recommendations for Membership to Carole Lower and a call for volunteers to register and help at the Fall Conference, Lynne adjourned the meeting at 7:52. Members stood to sing the DKG song and then enjoyed cupcakes made by Helen.

Submitted by Carol A. Anderson      Recording Secretary      Gamma Alpha